

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR NIACT IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 229288

FOLLOWING REPEAT USUN 3719 ACTION SECSTATE TOKYO INFO LONDON

PARIS MOSCOW 15 SEP 76

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 3719

FROM US DEL LOS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PLOS

SUBJECT: LOS:STRAITS

1) SUMMARY: REQUEST AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR CONFIRM
TO GOM AT POLITICAL LEVEL ON FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, U.S.
PROPOSAL FOR BILATERAL CONSULTATIONS ON STRAITS IN KUALA
LUMPUR, AT MUTUALLY CONVENIENT TIME, PRIOR TO NEXT SESSION
OF THE LOS CONFERENCE. END SUMMARY.

2) FYI: DURING COURSE OF SESSION, THERE HAS BEEN CON-
SIDERABLE MODERATION OF MALAYSIAN ATTITUDES ON STRAITS.
WHILE MALAYSIAN PROPOSALS STILL GIVES US CONSIDERABLE
DIFFICULTY, THEY HAVE CLEARLY SPLIT FROM HARD-LINE STRAIT
STATES AND ARE TRYING TO MOVE TOWARD A REAL ACCOMMODATION.
WITHIN THE GROUP OF 5, THE SOVIETS, BRITISH AND FRENCH
ALL WANTED TO MAKE PUBLIC STATEMENTS WELCOMING NEWEST
MALAYSIAN AMENDMENTS. THE JAPANESE ARE STRONGLY OPPOSED.
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3) WE SUPPORTED JAPAN, ARGUING THE GREAT TACTICAL DANGERS OF THE MARITIME POWERS SHOWING SIGNS OF WILLINGNESS TO REOPEN STRAITS IN THE OPEN COMMITTEE, AND NOTING FURTHER THAT POSITIVE COMMENTS COULD ONLY LEAD TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A SPECIAL NEGOTIATING GROUP ON STRAITS, TO WHICH ALL FIVE ARE OPPOSED. THE SOVIETS WENT AHEAD ANYWAY, BUT WERE LOW-KEY.

4) AS A RESULT OF THE GROUP OF 5 CONSULTATIONS, US DEL PROPOSED TO THE MALAYSIAN DEL THAT IF THEY WOULD OPPOSE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF ANY SPECIAL NEGOTIATING GROUP ON STRAITS, WE WERE PREPARED TO COME TO KUALA LUMPUR DURING INTERSESSIONAL PERIOD FOR CONSULTATIONS, AND IF THEY SO DESIRED, WOULD RECOMMEND THAT OUR EMBASSY IN KUALA LUMPUR CONFIRM THE PROPOSAL. IN AN ATTEMPT TO ASSIST MIN, KADIR, WE INDICATED NO OBJECTION TO A PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT IN KUALA LUMPUR OF THE PLANNED CONSULTATIONS AT THE END OF THE LOS SESSION (9/17). IN THE COURSE OF CONVERSATIONS, IT WAS RECOGNIZED THAT IT MIGHT BE USEFUL FOR THE U.S. TO CONSULT WITH OTHER MARITIME COUNTRIES BEFORE KUALA LUMPUR CONSULTATIONS. THE MALAYSIANS AGREED. IT APPEARS THAT NO STRAITS GROUP WILL BE ESTABLISHED AT THIS SESSION (THE MAJOR IMPACT, OF COURSE, WOULD HAVE BEEN THAT STRAITS WOULD HAVE BEEN AN OPEN ISSUE IN THE NEXT SESSION). END FYI.

5) ACCORDINGLY, USDEL REQUESTS DEPT. CONFIRM REQUEST FOR AMEMB. KUALA LUMPUR TO APPROACH GOM ON 9/17, REFER TO THE CONVERSATIONS IN NEW YORK WITH MINISTER KADIR, AND CONFIRM U.S. PROPOSAL FOR CONSULTATIONS IN KUALA LUMPUR ON STRAITS AND RELATED MATTERS DURING PERIOD BEFORE THE NEXT LOS SESSION.

6) SHOULD EMBASSY BE CONSULTED ON CONTENT OF ANY MALAYSIAN STATEMENT, STATEMENT SHOULD BE PROCEDURAL ONLY, CAN REFER TO STRAITS AS SUBJECT OF CONSULTATIONS, BUT SHOULD INCLUDE MORE GENERALIZED REFERENCE TO ACHIEVEMENT OF A WIDELY ACCEPTABLE TREATY ON THE LAW OF THE SEA IN ORDER TO LEAVE DOOR OPEN FOR DISCUSSION OF OTHER LOS MATTERS.

7) FOR TOKYO: FYI - JAPANESE DEL HERE WAS FULLY CONSULTED IN ADVANCE, AND RECOGNIZED THAT U.S. MANEUVER
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WAS NECESSARY TO PREVENT SOVIETS STEPPING OUT FRONT ON ISSUE OF GREATER IMPORTANCE TO THE JAPANESE THAN TO THE SOVIETS. WE HAVE ASSURED JAPANESE THAT WE INTEND TO CONSULT WITH THEM IN ADVANCE. THESE DISCUSSIONS WERE HELD WITH AMB. OGISO, WHO SEEMS TO HAVE A BROADER GRASP OF THE TACTICAL PROBLEMS THAT AMB. FUJISAKI. THE DEGREE TO WHICH THIS TACTIC HAS BEEN DISCUSSED IN TOKYO IS UNCLEAR. IF THE U.S. IS TO SUCCEED IN PROTECTING OUR BASIC INTERESTS IN STRAITS

ARTICLES, DEALING WITH THE MALAYSIANS IN GOOD FAITH, AND
HEADING OFF A SOVIET MANEUVER (WHETHER OR NOT WELL-IN-
TENTIONED). WE WILL NEED A STRATEGY FOR DEALING WITH TOKYO, ON THE M
ATTER. ACCORDINGLY, WE SUGGEST THAT AMEMB TOKYO
NOT RAISE THE ISSUE WITH GOJ AT THIS TIME, BUT WOULD WELCOME
SUGGESTIONS ON HOW TO PROCEED END FYI.

8) OSD AND JSC REPS CONCUR IN RECOMMENDED APPROACH IN
KUALA LUMPUR.
SCRANTON
UNQUOTE
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